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HOLLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LINCOLNSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

County Health Services

PART 1.

REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

BY

W. G. BOOTH,

M.D., D.P.H.

1939



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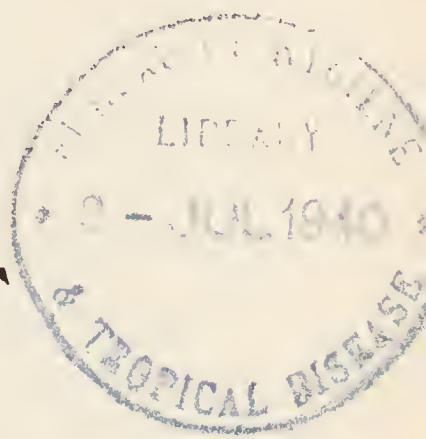
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1939

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The school medical report for 1939 will be brief for reasons of economy. Why the report is not briefer than it is might legitimately be asked in these times? But the year just passed will be historic from many points of view, not least, I suggest, in the field of school services. The great evacuation of September, 1939, has left an indelible mark upon us, and only in retrospect shall we be able properly to assess the influence it has had upon all of us who worked through those hectic times. It is, therefore, only proper that an adequate record should be made for future reference of Holland's contribution to this gigantic experiment. That our services stood the strain, and handled the multitude of problems that arose with efficiency and tact is a great credit to your wisdom and foresight in developing them on such sound lines. There is little doubt that Holland came out of the evacuation stresses with an enhanced reputation.

With no increase in staff for the first month, we were able to improvise clinics in every village, continue our school inspections and treatment, centralise our dental services, and organise a transport system to fit the new conditions from our volunteer ambulance drivers. Our school population was increased over-night by nearly 50% and only by almost superhuman efforts were the staff able to deal with the problems presented. That no medical staff should come with the children was almost incredible but it is earnestly to be hoped that any further evacuation will at least remedy this. Whilst we all anxiously hope that no further evacuation will come to disrupt our services, if it does come your staff will, I am sure, be only too ready to play their part to the best of their ability as they did in September, 1939.

May I express my appreciation of the support you give me in these anxious times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. BOOTH.

Health Department,
County Hall,
Boston.

20th May, 1940.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE
1939.

Chairman :

Councillor A. E. REEVES.

Ex-Officio :

Alderman SIR JOHN GLEED, M.A., D.L., J.P.

Alderman T. KITWOOD, J.P.

Alderman W. A. ATTON Mr. J. F. ALEXANDER

„ R. GLEED, D.L. Mr. L. J. DRIVER

„ E. RICHARDSON Mrs. W. F. HOWARD

Councillor R. LEGGOTT Mr. H. H. MORRIS

„ P. LOUGHLIN Rev. Canon B. G. NICHOLAS

„ T. WARRICK Rev. H. SPENDELOW

„ E. WRISDALE Miss E. A. SWAIN

REPORT.

STATISTICS RELATED TO MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Area of County 267,936 acres

Population of Administrative County (1931 Census) 92,313

Population of Administrative County (estimated mid-1938)
95,560.

Number of School Departments :—

Provided	47
Non-Provided	39
	86

Number of Children on Books (31st December, 1939) 10,171

Average attendance year ending 31st December, 1939 9,243

No. of School Attendance Officers on 31/12/1939 ... 6

Cost of School Medical Inspection for year ended December
31st, 1939 :—

	£	s.	d.
Gross Payments ...	6,103	8	0
Receipts	1,297	9	1
Net Expenditure ...	4,805	18	11

Grant from Board of Education for year ending 31st
December, 1939 £2,438 1 8

General Education Rate, Financial Year, 1938-39
(Elementary) 4s. 2d.

Medical Inspection Rate 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (approx.)

Product of 1d. Rate for Education Purposes for Financial
year, 1938/39 £876 (approx.)

1. STAFF OF SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, 1939.

School Medical Officer :

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer :

J. FIELDING, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers :

C. W. DIXON, M.D., B.S., D.C.H., D.L.O., D.P.H.

A. C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Appointed March, 1939).

BETTY M. KENNEDY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon :

R. E. M. PILCHER, F.R.C.S.

School Dental Officers :

C. A. JOHNSTON, L.D.S (Edin.).

A. D. HENDERSON, L.D.S. (Edin.), D.P.D.

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon :

A. H. BRIGGS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Aural Surgeon (Part Time) :

J. J. RAINFORTH, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

School Nurses :

Miss A. D. BLACK

Miss H. M. LEWIS

Miss E. S. BONSER

Miss A. Q. LINNELL

Miss E. ENSOR

Miss A. M. PARSONS

Miss E. HALLWORTH

Miss H. E. SPENCER

Miss F. M. KAY.

Orthopædic Nurse :

Miss A. BOYD.

Dental Nurses :

Miss M. SIMPSON.

Miss J. M. STARKEY.

Chief Clerk :

W. INGRAM.

In addition to the above permanent staff, Dr. Jessie Corner has, during the latter part of the year, been employed in a temporary capacity, mainly in connection with the inspection of school children from Evacuation areas. Also the London County Council sent a school nursing sister, Miss Woollatt, to assist in the school work, and an additional nurse is working amongst the children from the Hull area.

Miss E. M. Cook was engaged in a temporary capacity in August as an assistant orthopædic nurse.

II.—Co-ordination.

The County Health Services are under the administrative control of the County Medical Officer, who is also School Medical Officer, and co-ordination between the School and other County services is therefore ensured.

III.—Medical Inspection.

As in previous years, the routine age groups prescribed by the Board of Education have been examined, namely (1) all children within twelve months of their entry into school (2) all children within 12 months of obtaining their eighth birthday, and (3) all children within twelve months of attaining their twelfth birthday. Also, special cases submitted by parents or teachers are examined, and children found at previous inspections to require treatment or to be kept under observation were examined. Special examinations were carried out of dull and backward children and of those suspected of mental defect.

In addition to the above inspections of children normally resident in the County, the medical inspection of school children from Evacuation areas was undertaken in a number of schools between September and the end of the year. These inspections were of the "survey" type for rapidly assessing the nutrition of the children and sorting out those in need of urgent medical treatment, namely dental and ophthalmic cases. These children were subsequently dealt with by the school dentists and the school ophthalmologist.

IV.—School Hygiene.

The experiment of using paper towels was continued during the year in certain Grade III. and Grade IV. schools, namely :—

- Spalding Council.
- Croyland South View Road Council.
- Kirton Church End Senior Council.
- Long Sutton Senior Mixed Council.
- Spalding Senior Mixed Council.
- Sutton Bridge Senior Mixed Council.
- Spalding Parish Church Day Mixed.
- Swineshead Cowley's Foundation.

The practice of reporting on the sanitary condition of schools at each routine inspection was also continued and the defects found were brought to the notice of the Managers concerned by the Education Committee.

V.—Findings of Medical Inspection and Medical Treatment.

The work of the School Medical Service continued along the usual lines until the outbreak of war in September and the arrival in the County of some seven or eight thousand evacuee children from London and Hull. The chaos following the evacuation resulted in a total abandoning of routine medical inspection as such for the time being.

The poor physical development and dirty condition of many of the evacuees necessitated very thorough supervision and examination of the evacuees in the Council's schools, and for the first few weeks the School Medical Staff—both Doctors and Nurses—devoted the greater part of their time to this work. In this connection I should like to draw attention to two schemes which were put into operation.

The first was the opening of the Casual Wards at Holbeach as a Children's Hospital for Skin Diseases and Minor Ailments. Scabies and impetigo were very rife following evacuation and institutional treatment was the only way of combating these infections effectively. A full account of the work done at Holbeach will be found in the report of the County Medical Officer.

The second was the scheme introduced for using A.R.P. Decontamination Centres for providing hot shower baths for evacuee school children who, for one reason or another, were unable to get baths in their billets or who for other reasons were in need of shower baths. An account of the progress of this Scheme will also be found elsewhere in this report.

Full routine medical inspection of school children was resumed towards the end of 1939 on instructions from the Board of Education although no complete interruption had occurred at any time apart from the addition of the survey inspections. In many cases, evacuee schools are now merged with the local schools and, when this is the case, medical inspection of evacuees takes place at the same time as the inspection of the local children, otherwise separate sessions have to be arranged for them.

Towards the end of the year a Diphtheria Immunisation campaign was started. This has been very successful as will be gathered from the report appearing under this heading in the appropriate section of this Report.

Uncleanliness

During the year, 32,820 examinations of children were made by the Authority's school nurses, which is an increase on the previous year's figures. The number of children found unclean was 642 ; this shews an improvement on last year's figure of 767. To these figures must be added those in respect of children from Evacuation areas. Since their entry into the County last September, 12,098 inspections have been made and 711 children were found to be unclean.

Tonsils and Adenoids

Two hundred and twenty-three cases of enlarged tonsils and/or adenoids received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme, 10 under private arrangements, and 49 cases received other forms of treatment.

Defective Vision

Clinics for the treatment of visual defects are held at Boston, Holbeach, Long Sutton and Spalding. A total of 94 clinics was held at these centres during the year.

The number of Holland children examined during the year was 396, the number of evacuee children 63, and the number of attendances made was 1,413.

Repairs and renewals have been carried out as required.

The following is the list of cases seen by Dr. Kennedy at Ophthalmic clinics during the year classified according to the nature of the defect :—

						Number of Cases.	
						Holland Children.	Evacuee Children.
Hypermetropia	...	...	...	...	...	93	17
Myopia and Myopic Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	123	14
Mixed Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	23	1
Convergent Squint	...	...	...	...	...	95	23
Divergent Squint	...	...	...	...	...	12	—
Ptosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Corneal Scarring	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Albinism	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Phlyctenular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cataract	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Nystagmus	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Dacrocystitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Detachment of Retina	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Chalazion	...	...	...	...	...	1	—

Dental Service

Mr. A. D. Henderson reports on the work in the northern part of the County as follows :—

“ We have now reached the end of the first complete year in which the new Dental Scheme has been operative, and the results now available reveal several points of interest. Several facts appear to be direct results of the scheme “ *per se*,” and as such must persist, but others are probably temporary results of the period of transition, and will tend to be eliminated as the scheme progresses beyond the initial stages.

For example, many cases outside the scheme in January, 1939, have now decided to accept treatment, and as many of them are receiving treatment for the first time, the amount of treatment—particularly extractions and emergency treatment—per case, has thus been greater than it should be in future years if the scheme is strictly administered. This also influences the inspection figures. Fillings, scaling, etc., are now done at inspections, and to allow for this, the number of cases summoned to attend at each inspection session has been substantially reduced. Unfortunately, many of the cases, which did in fact attend, were of the above-mentioned type, and only examination could be carried out. Thereby a certain wastage of time was occasioned. This accounts for the smaller number of children inspected during the year, in spite of the fact that the time devoted to dental inspection has been almost trebled. It also explains the fact that the time devoted to treatment was only 68% of that similarly employed last year. Bearing this in mind it will be appreciated that while certain figures shew an apparent reduction from those of the previous year, the actual percentage of work per treatment session shews an increase.

Together with the figures available, actual contact with parents, and clinical experience with the children throughout the year, suggests that if the present scheme be rigidly applied—that is, if the children can be made to join it on entering school at the age of 5, and if defaulters are excluded from further benefits under the scheme—it should prove to be a great success, and ought to alter completely in the next few years the character of the work undertaken. Such alteration would be a progressive step towards the ideal Health Service, which, while offering facilities for the care of emergency and chronic conditions, is principally concerned with the prophylactic and conservative work. Progress will be gradual but an extremely high efficiency percentage should be attained within the next two or three years.

In addition to the normal routine work the dental staff has also been called upon to cope with a large volume of emergency work subsequent to and consequent to the outbreak of hostilities, as this is a reception area for evacuee school children. A satisfactory service has been maintained, but, up to the present, only emergency cases have been dealt with, although in such cases treatment has been immediately available. Where urgency was a deciding factor the consent of guardians or other responsible adults in contact with the children have been accepted in lieu of parental consent, but it is the intention of the authority to attempt to obtain a consent for all necessary treatment from the parents of each evacuee in the district. A register of such consents will be maintained, and the children will then be able to receive immediate emergency treatment, and also to enjoy the benefits of routine dental inspection and treatment, in the same manner as children normally resident in the area. The number of evacuees treated in 1939 was 47.

I wish here to acknowledge the assistance of the anæsthetists, nursing and administrative staffs, and the co-operation of teachers in the county."

No. of Sessions	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
„ „ Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1316
„ „ Extractions (Permanent teeth)						...	308
						(Temporary teeth) ...	1504
„ „ Fillings (Permanent teeth)						...	112
						(Temporary teeth) ...	263
„ „ Other operations	...	...	...	...	...	...	481
„ „ Administrations of General							
Anæsthetics		...	...	...	...	...	482

Mr. C. A. Johnston reports on the work in the Southern part of the County as follows :—

“ I have pleasure in presenting my report of the work of the school dental service in the south of the county.

During the year certain modifications were made in the dental scheme in yet another effort to increase the acceptance rate. Briefly these are :—(1) the fee of one shilling is payable when the parent accepts treatment, and covers the cost of all necessary treatment during the child's school life ; (2) the parent will be notified when treatment is to be given, only when extractions are necessary and not when conservative treatment is carried out. As the scheme has only been in operation for a short time it is not yet possible to say whether it has achieved its purpose.

The details of the work carried out during the year are as follows :—

No. of Sessions devoted to treatment	324
„ „ Attendances	2999
„ „ Extractions (Permanent teeth) ...	599
„ „ „ (Temporary teeth) ...	2239
„ „ Fillings (Permanent teeth) ...	1020
„ „ „ (Temporary teeth) ...	481
„ „ Administrations of General Anæsthetic	620

It will be noted that there has been a decrease in the amount of work done as compared with last year, but this is accounted for by the fact that, on the outbreak of war in September, the dental van was converted into an ambulance and taken over by the A.R.P. Authorities, and therefore was not available for dental work at the rural schools. This meant that all the dental work of South Holland schools had to be carried out at Spalding clinic, and arrangements had to be made for transporting the children from the outlying schools to clinic by ambulance.

This arrangement did not prove entirely satisfactory as the interval between the children's arrival at clinic and their departure left too little time to carry out any extensive treatment. This transport was carried out by the voluntary ambulance drivers of Spalding and district whose willing co-operation facilitated the maintenance of a skeleton scheme for the rural schools during the winter months. I am pleased to report that the van has again been requisitioned for dental work, and I am now able to visit the outlying schools as before.

The evacuation of a large number of children into this area at the beginning of September necessitated provision being made for any urgent treatment required. In the initial stages, arrangements were made with the school nurses and others in touch with the children to ensure that any child requiring urgent attention could be brought to clinic for immediate treatment. This proved quite satisfactory, but it was soon realised that quite a number had received regular and extensive treatment under their own authority, and it was decided to ask all parents of evacuees for consents to regular treatment in order that the standard of dental health they had acquired from previous treatment could be maintained. Those children whose parents have accepted will now receive routine inspection and treatment on lines similar to those existing for local children.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the anæsthetists, the dental nurse, the head teachers and staffs of the various schools and all others for their continued co-operation."

Thirty-six Orthopædic Clinics were held at the Centres at Boston, Spalding, Holbeach and Long Sutton. During 1939, 132 children were seen at the clinics and the number of attendances made was 299.

The following table shows the classification of cases according to the nature of the disease :—

Tuberculosis (Surgical)—

Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	4
Tubercular glands of neck	...	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis of bones or joints	...	...	...	...	10
Observation Cases	...	...	...	...	4

Non-Tuberculous Conditions—

Postural deformities of spine	...	...	...	...	13
Rachitic deformities	...	...	...	...	10
Paralytic deformities	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital deformities of foot	...	...	...	...	12
Torticollis	...	...	...	...	4
Madelungs deformity	...	...	...	...	1
Mal-united fractures	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital dislocation of hip	...	...	...	...	3
Perthé's disease	...	...	...	...	1
Hallus valgus, hammer toes, etc.	...	...	...	...	3
Osteomyelitis	...	...	...	...	8
Undescended testicles	...	...	...	...	5
Hernia	...	...	...	...	3
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	12
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	18

Forty-one children were treated as in-patients in the Holland Sanatorium Orthopædic Block for the following conditions :—

Tuberculosis of bones or joints	...	...	...	...	8
Tubercular glands of neck	...	...	...	...	4
Abdominal tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Osteomyelitis (non-tubercular)	...	...	...	...	2
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	...	9
Hammer Toes	...	...	...	...	2
Postural deformities	...	...	...	...	4
Mal-united fractures	...	...	...	...	2
Deformities of foot	...	...	...	...	2
Perthé's Disease	...	...	...	...	1
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	5

Defective
Hearing and
Ear Disease

Twenty-three cases were referred to the Consultant under the prevention of deafness arrangements and the prescribed treatment was carried out.

Nutrition

All children examined were classified, as suggested by the Board of Education, into four groups, namely, A—Excellent, B—Normal, C—Slightly sub-normal and D—Bad. The percentages in these four groups are shewn in the table at the end of this report.

Tuberculosis

Two hundred and fifty-eight attendances were made by school children at the dispensaries at Boston, Spalding, Holbeach, Donington and Long Sutton.

Five pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary cases received in-patient treatment during the year.

Minor Ailments
& Clinic Work

In addition to cases seen at the clinics and referred for appropriate treatment, the following table shews the extent of the treatment of minor ailments either at the clinics, schools, or in the homes :—

Classification of Minor Ailments.

Condition.—

	Holland	London County Council	Tottenham	Hull
Scabies	14	12	—	6
Ringworm	6	—	—	—
Impetigo	324	94	2	27
Other skin diseases	135	32	—	5
Minor eye defects	97	30	—	7
Minor ear defects	104	33	—	12
Minor injuries, etc.	940	397	4	157
	1620	598	6	214

Attendances at clinics were as follows :—

	Holland	London County Council	Tottenham	Hull
Number of cases ...	933	472	6	24
No. seen by doctor	682	221	4	5
Total attendances	3559	1789	31	59

The following particulars shew the position regarding following-up work in the schools or homes for the purpose of treatment or advice :—

	Number of children.	School visits.	Home visits.
Holland	1347	1230	1375
London County Council	199	348	32
Hull	191	320	61

Apart from the above, the nurses made 349 home visits, including 138 in respect of children from Evacuation Areas, for the detection and prevention of uncleanness.

VI.—Infectious Diseases.

School Closure

In only 1 case was school closure necessary, namely at Pinchbeck West School owing to a breakdown in the sanitary arrangements.

In addition, 19 certificates were given in respect of certain schools because of the fall of attendances below 60 per cent. owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The reception of large numbers of town children into this area as a result of the evacuation scheme, and their subsequent mixing with the local country children, made it highly desirable that the latter should be immunised against diphtheria at the earliest opportunity. An outbreak of this infection in a neighbouring district acted both as a warning to the children's parents and as a stimulant to them to co-operate in the scheme which was started towards the end of November, 1939.

A circular letter was sent to the Head Teachers of all H.C.C. schools drawing attention to the desirability of getting as many of their children immunised as possible, and asking them to do all in their power to persuade the parents of their scholars to give consent for the inoculation. Printed cards were issued to the schools so that each scholar could take one home for the parent to sign, giving consent to the inoculation. These cards were brought back to school by the children and returned to the Health Department by the Head Teachers. From these cards the number of consents and refusals was easily obtained. For the purpose of statistical analysis, the County can be divided into two areas—the Southern part of the County in which a number of schools had been immunised previously and the Northern part in which none of the schools had been previously immunised.

The figures are as follows :—

For the North of the County.

Out of 3,468 children on the rolls of 33 schools, 2182 accepted immunisation ; thus giving an acceptance rate of **63 per cent.**

For the South of the County.

Of 6,534 children on the rolls of 52 schools, 3,523 accepted immunisation, that is 54 per cent. accepted. At a number of these 52 schools, mass immunisation had been previously undertaken, and it is estimated that approximately 3,000 children had been immunised during the last 5 or 6 years. This undoubtedly accounts for the lower percentage of children immunised in the South of the County during the present scheme.

The total figure for the County as a whole is 5,705 children immunised out of a total of 10,002. That is, an acceptance rate of 57 per cent.

Immunising started early in November and was undertaken by three of the County Medical staff. It was completed early in January. Two injections of T.A.F. were given, 1cc being used in each case. Injections were separated by an interval of approximately 4 weeks.

No cases of sepsis have been reported in spite of the fact that over 10,000 injections were given. Mild allergic reactions were noticed in half-a-dozen or so cases, but all of these were in children over 14 years old.

The scheme was accepted favourably by the great majority of parents and, apart from a small and badly carried out campaign against it by the Anti-Vivisection Society, little organised opposition was offered. It was note-worthy that, in schools where the Head Teacher took an active interest in the scheme, a much higher proportion of acceptances was obtained than in schools where the Head Teacher was indifferent.

Having completed the immunisation of our own children, the question of immunising the evacuees in the County was considered. It was realised that it would be necessary to write to the parent of each evacuee for consent to inoculate,

It was decided to ask at the same time if parents wished their children to receive any treatment considered necessary by the County Medical Staff, such as dental and ophthalmic treatment, tonsils, etc. Cards were printed and sent to the parents of evacuees requesting them to intimate the fact, if they wished their child treated or immunised or both.

To secure the effect of a personal appeal a letter with card stamped and addressed for return to the office, was sent direct to each parent. Approximately 4,000 cards were sent out, but only 1,500 were returned. Comment seems unnecessary.

In view of the small number of evacuees requiring immunisation, it was decided to do the inoculations at the same time as the school inspections—the routine inspection of evacuees now being in full swing in this County. A considerable number of the evacuee school-children have received both injections at the time of writing this report, and a larger number have received their first injection. As school inspection proceeds, this immunisation will gradually be completed.

In the Ministry of Health Circular on Diphtheria it is pointed out that if 75 per cent. of the child population of an area is immunised, the incidence of diphtheria in that area should show a very marked fall.

Taking the figure of 63 per cent. acceptances for the North of the County as typical of the state of the County as a whole in respect of immunised school children, and bearing in mind the fact that pre-school children are being immunised in the County's Infant Welfare Centres (approximately 15 per cent. of the children under 5 years of age have been immunised at Infant Welfare Centres), it will be seen that, together with these children immunised by private practitioners, the percentage of the children immunised in the County cannot fall far short of this figure. It will be interesting to observe what effect this Immunisation Scheme will have on the incidence of Diphtheria in the County during the next few years.

VII.—Open Air Education.

There are no open air schools in the area but, in many schools, lessons are given in the playground during the summer months.

VIII.—Physical Training.

A scheme was approved whereby a man organiser and a woman organiser for Physical Training were appointed in the joint service of the County of Lincoln, Boston, Kesteven and Holland Authorities ; both commenced duty on 1st November, 1939.

IX.—Provision of Meals.

At the end of the year, approximately 5,400 children in the County were receiving milk under the milk in schools scheme, as follows :—

Type of Beverage Provided.	Supplies for payment by parents.	Free Supplies	Total
Milk	3157	507	3664
Horlick's Milk ...	1583	10	1593
Cocoa	81	—	81
	4821	517	5338

In addition, 23 children from evacuation areas were receiving free milk at the close of the year.

X.—School Baths.

Whilst there are no school swimming baths in the County, reference must be made to the hot shower bath scheme introduced shortly after the arrival of evacuees into the County. It was decided to use the showers at the A.R.P. decontamination centres as shower baths for evacuee children who were unable to get adequate bathing facilities in their billets. The scheme was tried out on a small scale first with the evacuees at Butterwick Boys' School. The boys were brought into Boston to the Bargate First Aid Post, in the 'buses attached to the A.R.P. Ambulance Service, and took their baths there under the supervision of a master. The scheme caught on so well that it was extended throughout the County, children being brought in from outlying districts to the decontamination centres at Boston, Spalding (Princes Cinema) and Holbeach (Casual Wards). Sessions are held for both boys and girls and electric hair driers are available for the use of the latter. It is hardly necessary to remark that this scheme has helped greatly to clean up the number of dirty heads reported by the school nurses soon after evacuation, and the children attending have obviously benefited from the physical point of view.

XI.—Co-operation of Parents, Teachers, School Attendance Officers and Voluntary Bodies.

At the routine inspections, approximately 50 per cent. of the parents of the children were present.

Thanks are also due to the head teachers who have co-operated in the work of the school medical service ; it is hardly necessary to point out the vital part this assistance plays in the success of the service.

The School Attendance Officers have again helped in many ways, particularly in regard to children absent from school.

I would also refer to the help which has been immediately forthcoming from the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children when difficult cases or cases of apparent neglect have come to the notice of the department. The Inspector has shewn great tact in dealing with them with the result that the conditions are invariably remedied or much improved. The following cases were reported to the Society during the year :—

Defects of Vision	...	...	...	...	...	2
Uncleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	7
General Neglect	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other	...	...	...	...	...	1

XII.—Special Children.

Six blind children, 6 deaf and dumb children, and one mentally defective child are attending special schools. 74 children who have been classified as mentally defective are attending elementary schools in this area.

XIII.—Secondary Schools.

There are five Secondary Schools in the County and routine medical inspections are carried out each year by the school doctors. Children previously referred for treatment or observation are also re-inspected. Specials brought forward by parents or teachers are also examined at the same time. Medical inspections are held termly and apply to all pupils. The total number of pupils examined during 1939 was 810.

The Education Committee provide dental, ophthalmic and orthopædic treatment, and also operative treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids for scholarship and free place pupils on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer.

Medical
Inspection

Medical
Treatment

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Holland Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	Classification							
		A. (Excellent)		B. Normal		C. Slightly Sub-normal)		D. Bad	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	959	36	3·7	812	84·7	111	11·6	—	—
Second Age Group ..	942	89	9·4	740	78·5	113	12·1	—	—
Third Age Group ..	965	124	12·9	753	78·0	88	9·1	—	—
Other Routine ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inspections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2866	249	8·7	2305	80·5	312	10·8	—	—

TABLE III.

Treatment Tables.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.		Otherwise	Total
	Holland Children	Evacuees		
Skin—				
Ringworm—Scalp	2	—	—	2
Ringworm—Body	4	—	—	4
Scabies	14	18	—	32
Impetigo	324	123	4	451
Other Skin Disease	135	38	6	179
Minor Eye Defects.. ..	97	37	2	136
Minor Ear Defects	104	40	5	149
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, &c.).. ..	940	558	—	1498
Total	1620	814	17	2451

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT
(EXCLUDING MINOR EYE DEFECTS).

Number of Defects dealt with									
	Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total		
	Element'y Schools	Secondary	Evacuees	Element'y Schools	Secondary	Evacuees	Element'y Schools	Secondary	Evacuees
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ..	451	60	79	6	12	—	457	72	79
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Total	453	60	79	6	12	—	459	72	79
Number of Children for whom glasses were prescribed and obtained ..	396	50	34	4	12	0	400	62	34

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

	Number of Defects				
	Received Operative Treatment			Received other forms of treatment	Total numbers treated
	Under the Authority's Scheme	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Total		
Elementary Schools ..	222	9	231	49	280
Secondary Schools ..	3	1	4	—	4

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total number treated
	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	
Number of Children Treated	—	41	132	—	—	—	132

GROUP V.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentists :

	Aged :		
	5.	258	} 3305
	6.	376	
	7.	425	
	8.	455	
	9.	404	
Routine Age Groups	10.	423	
	11.	324	
	12.	348	
	13.	265	
	14.	27	
Specials			20
	Total		3325

Secondary School children inspected	651
Evacuee children inspected	101
Half-days devoted to inspection ...	143
Half-days devoted to treatment ...	456

Dental Treatment		Elementary Schools	Evacuees	Secondary Schools
	Children found to require treatment	2559	99	466
	Children actually treated	1916	68	117
	Attendances made by children for treatment	4205	68	153
	Fillings—Permanent teeth	1116	—	105
	,, Temporary teeth	737	—	—
	Extractions—Permanent teeth	895	31	92
	,, Temporary teeth	3689	63	9
	Administrations of general anaesthetics	1079	49	51
	Other Operations—Permanent teeth	331	—	23
	,, Temporary teeth	459	3	3

TABLE IV.

Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

	Elementary Schools	Evacuees
(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	5	—
(ii) Total number of examinations of chil- dren in the schools by School Nurses	32820	12098
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	642	711
(iv) Number of children cleansed	492	431
(v) Number of cases in which legal pro- ceedings were taken	—	—

